

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 OIC-02
/159 W

-----053687 271959Z /47

P 271837Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6524
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR FOR AMBASSADORS STRAUSS AND WOLFF

PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY BERGLAND

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: EC DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON MARCH 8-9

1. IN DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS ON FRIDAY, SIR ROY DENMAN
AND AMBASSADOR MCDONALD EXCHANGED IDEAS ON WHAT MIGHT
BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE VISIT BY THE EC GROUP TO
WASHINGTON ON MARCH 8-9. AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, THE EC
GROUP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS FROM 1100 ON
MARCH 8 UNTIL NOON ON MARCH 9.

2. THE MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS ARE:
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(1) SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAILS (WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION
FROM THE EC POINT OF VIEW ON MATERIAL INJURY AND FROM
THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW ON COVERAGE FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTS
AND SUBSIDY DISCIPLINES),

(2) AN OVERVIEW OF OUR AGRICULTURAL POSITIONS AND

A POSSIBLE JOINT STRATEGY FOR MAKING SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. (WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WHAT WE NEED IN AGRICULTURE OUT OF THIS NEGOTIATION AND THE U.S. COMMODITY POINTS OF VIEW IN THE GRAIN, DAIRY AND MEAT GROUPS,

(3) THE EC WILL ALSO WANT TO TOUCH ON SAFEGUARDS ABOUT WHICH THEY ARE VERY WORRIED AT THE MOMENT,

(4) THEY WILL PERHAPS ALSO GIVE SOME INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE U.S. TARIFF OFFER.

3. FROM THE U.S. SIDE, MCDONALD EMPHASIZED THAT THE FIRST TWO AGENDA ITEMS WERE THE MOST CRITICAL AND SHOULD CONSUME MOST OF OUR TIME. IN ADDITION, HE LEFT THE WAY OPEN TO ADD OTHER POINTS OF MAJOR CONCERN OR INTEREST TO THE U.S. AS TIME PERMITS. WE CAN DECIDE ON THESE EARLIER NEXT WEEK IN DISCUSSIONS AFTER MCDONALD'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON.

4. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A TIMELY MOMENT TO HAVE SOME EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OUR INTERAGENCY LEADERS WITH OUR EC GUESTS. AS SUGGESTIONS, WE MIGHT ARRANGE A BREAKFAST SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PERHAPS IN THE WHITE HOUSE MESS FOR THE MORNING OF MARCH 9. THIS WOULD BE AN OPEN DISCUSSION WITH ONE OR TWO TOPICS OF KEEN INTEREST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM THE PRECEDING DAY'S MEETING TO LEAD OFF, BUT OPEN FOR GENERAL COMMENT, QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS AS THOSE PRESENT THINK MOST USEFUL. A SECOND POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL FROM THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS TO ASSEMBLE FOR A SMALL RECEPTION OVER DRINKS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR OR AN HOUR AND A HALF'S DISCUSSION ON MARCH 8 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 5:30 OR 6:00. AGAIN AN INFORMAL FORMAT FOR DISCUSSION OF WHATEVER APPEARS TO BE OF KEENEST INTEREST TO THE GROUP PRESENT WOULD APPEAR USEFUL. MCDONALD

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